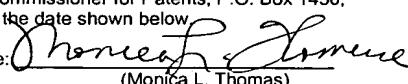


MAY 11 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 509324585US, in an envelope addressed to MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.
Dated: May 11, 2004 Signature: 
(Monica L. Thomas)

Docket No.: HO-P01952US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Julie A. Bearcroft et al.

Application No.: 09/517,981

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: March 3, 2000

Examiner: B. E. Pellegrino

For: SHAPED PARTICLE AND COMPOSITION
FOR BONE DEFICIENCY AND METHOD OF
MAKING THE PARTICLE

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
MAY 14 2004

Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004 for the above-referenced file, please consider the following

Amendments to the Claims are presented on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.